

Message Text

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12

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1283

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO US

SUBJ: PERLA HEWES CASE: SIGNIFICANCE

REF: MOGADISCIO 1399

1. PARA 5 REFTTEL BRIEFLY MENTIONED THAT HEWES CASE ILLUSTRATED POWER OF SOMALI NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICE VETO OVER OTHER SOMALI MINISTRIES. MAY BE WORTHWHILE EXPAND ON THIS THEME NOW THAT HEWES HAS FINALLY BEEN FORCED LEAVE SOMALIA.

2. THROUGHOUT THE FOUR WEEKS OF NEGOTIATION ON THIS CASE IT WAS CLEAR THAT THREE GSDR OFFICES STRONGLY FAVORED HER PRESENCE IN MOGADISCIO: FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SPORTS, AND IMMIGRATION. IT ALSO BECAME CLEAR THAT NSS TOOK THE POSITION THAT AN AMERICAN CONNECTED WITH A USG ENTITY (THE AMERICAN SCHOOL) SHOULD NOT HAVE FREQUENT CONTACT WITH SOMALIS. FOR THIS REASON NSS MADE THE COUNTERPROPOSAL THAT HEWES COULD STAY IN SOMALIA IF SHE SPENT FULL-TIME TEACHING TENNIS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF SPORTS AND SEVERED ALL CONNECTION WITH THE AMERICAN SCHOOL (MOGADISCIO 1386).

3. MOST COMPELLING EVIDENCE OF NSS POWER WAS FACT THEY VETOED HER RESIDENCE APPLICATION AFTER BOTH MOFA AND MINISTRY OF SPORTS HAD GIVEN CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES TO EMBASSY THAT HEWES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO WORK FOR AMERICAN SCHOOL WHILE VOLUNTARILY ASSISTING SOMALI TENNIS PLAYERS.

4. OUR FEAR THROUGHOUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WAS THAT IF EMBASSY
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TOOK TOO STRONG A STAND ON THE CASE WE COULD JEOPARDIZE AMERICAN

SCHOOL AND OUR EXISTING USIS SPORTS PROGRAM. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE AS YET THAT SUCH UNFAVORABLE FALLOUT HAS OCCURRED, BUT IT MAY WELL BE THAT NSS WILL TAKE A HARDER LOOK AT THE ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL YOUTH/SPORTS SPECIALIST WHITFIELD AND CU-FUNDED BASKETBALL COACH TOBIAS.

5. FINALLY, THE HEWES CASE DOES SUGGEST THAT WE PROCEED EXTREMELY CAREFULLY IN INITIATING ANY PROGRAMS UNTIL WE ARE CERTAIN THAT GSDR HAVE TOUCHED ALL BASES AND HAS SPECIFIC NSS CONCURRENCE.
CROMWELL

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